of the surveyed transnational corporations have found India to be the most attractive investment location. China, United States, Russian Federation and United Kingdom have been considered the most attractive location by 87%, 51%, 33% and 13% respondents respectively. Response for Pakistan has not been reported.

(c) The Government has put in place an investor friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is allowed under the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The FDI policy and related procedures are reviewed on a continuing basis. The Government also undertakes investment promotion and facilitation measures to attract investment.

Action against major publishing houses and cigarette companies

3049. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been initiated against some major publishing houses and cigarette companies for violation of the "Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade And Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Show Cause Notices have been issued to the publishers of 'The Hindu', 'Stardust' and 'Overdrive' and the manufacturers of cigarettes with brand names like Red & White (M/s Godfrey Phillips), Gold Flake (ITC) and Malbros (M/s Phillip Morris Ltd.) for violation of the "Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply & Distribution") Act, 2003. The concerned State Governments have also been requested to take action against such magazines/publications published from their Sates.

Visit of Defence Minister to North East in September, 2005

3050. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his visit to the North-East in September, 2005 also included

gaining knowledge about Army operations, strategies, their success/ hinderances, etc. against insurgent outfits, having their training camps in neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, whether these were broadly found satisfactory;

(c) whether the Tezpur based 4 Corps Headquarters issued a statement in September, 2005 indicating that ULFA continued to indulge in heinous activities against the Nation without eshewing violence;

(d) whether Government have begun peace talks with ULFA and Army units have been asked to halt their operations against them; and

(e) details of the cease-fire agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The visit of the Defence Minister to the North-East in September 2005, was to review Defence preparedness of the Army and also to address the troops posted in the area.

(c) to (e) No Statement referred to the Part (c) of the Question has been made by 4 Corps Headquarters, Tezpur, The People's Consultative Group on behalf of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) held talks with the Government on 26.10.2005, within the Government's policy to hold dialogue, pursue socio- economic development programmes, modernize and strengthen the police/security forces and to tackle the activities of the militants with the help of forces to protect properties, limbs and lives of innocent people.

Indo-Us Trade Forum

3051. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US launched "Indo-US Trade Forum" to give thrust so as to double bilateral trade to US$ 40 billion by 2008;

(b) if so, how India is going to overcome the Non-Tariff barriers that US imposes to achieve the goal of (a) above; and

(c) what is the present bilateral trade between India and US?